

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A running board assembly for accommodating access to a motor vehicle, said running board assembly comprising:

a plurality of mounting brackets fixedly secured to a motor vehicle;

a step movably secured to said plurality of mounting brackets, said step having a cantilever arm extending out therefrom and defining a stepping surface, a peripheral edge extending around said step, and a contoured surface opposite said stepping surface shaped to provide an inner rocker panel appearance, said step movable between a deployed position providing access to said stepping surface and a stowed position wherein a portion of said peripheral edge abuts the motor vehicle and said contoured surface merges with adjacent vehicle panels;

a linkage secured to said step for defining a path of travel for said step between said deployed and stowed positions;

a motor operatively connected to said linkage for moving said linkage and said step;  
and

a transmission having a sector gear secured to said step and operatively engaging said motor, said sector gear having an arcuate toothed portion and defining a slot having upper and lower slot ends.

10. (Previously Presented) A running board assembly as set forth in claim 9 including a circle gear operatively connected to said motor, said circle gear defining a toothed portion engaging said arcuate, toothed portion of said sector gear such that upon activation of said motor said sector gear travels between said upper and lower ends to move said step between its stowed and deployed positions.